



The Galapagos Islands



“Considering the small size of these islands, we feel the more astonished at the number of their aboriginal beings, and at their confined range... Hence, both in space and time, we seem to be brought somewhere near to that great fact, that mystery of mysteries –the appearance of the new beings on this earth.”

Charles Darwin, 1859.



Visiting the Galapagos Islands



The Galapagos Islands are a place apart, a truly extraordinary destination in which a unique wildlife experience is guaranteed. The marine life here is phenomenal; the animals - with no reason to run - are incredibly approachable.

What is the best way to experience the Galapagos Islands?

Without a doubt the absolute best way to discover this Galapagos Islands is to join one of the boats that cruise around the islands on a set itinerary. During the cruise you will eat all your meals on board, sleep on board, and have a naturalist guide that runs the excursions

How should I choose a Galapagos boat?

With so many options it can be tricky to decide which boat to select. The size of the boat, the style, design of the boat, the level of luxury and price are the main determining factors when

deciding what boat will be the perfect match for you.

Size-We are firm believers in boats that are small/medium in size as they offer a more intimate and personal experience of the islands and are the opposite to what you might expect from a traditional “cruise”.

Style- there are catamarans, motorboats and a couple of yachts. Some argue that the catamarans are more stable over the waves if you are visiting in the relatively choppier months (September and October). Others believe that the modern specifically designed Galapagos boats that have state of the art stabilisers do a great in stabilising the boats.

Our experience is that there is very little difference and if you are known to suffer from sea sickness then opt for one of the medium sized boats like the Evolution.

Design- there are the classical looking options with varnished wood, brass throughout and nautical feels to more contemporary designed options like the Alia and MV Theory. It all boils down to your personal taste/preference.

Level of luxury- some boats are purely there as means to get you from A to B and offer decent food, good guiding and a crew that speaks a little English. But they are decent options for those that don’t demand luxury.

Our favourite more economical option are Angelito or Tip Top II.

For a luxury option (akin to a boutique hotel) then the MV Theory, Alya and the Evolution are fantastic options that we regularly book.

Price- if money is no object and you want a boat that constantly delivers then the MV Origin is by far the best option. For those looking for a more economical good boat with interesting itineraries,



friendly staff and good food then one of the MV Eric, Seaman Journey or MV Coral.

How long are Galapagos cruises?

Each boat has different itineraries that vary in length and route which can range from 4 nights upwards. We suggest a week cruise as a perfect amount of time for a first visit as it enables you to get a comprehensive understanding of the islands. If you are short of time then the shorter cruises are also great as an introduction.

What is a typical day aboard a Galapagos boat?

You will visit two landing sites per day; enjoying three meals in between snorkelling, sailing and an evening briefing/lecture.

Is booking through South America Odyssey beneficial?

We work directly with all the boats and guarantee that with South America Odyssey you will always pay the same price as going direct, and quite often cheaper, and with added ATOL protection, impartial advice and the knowledge that your special holiday is in the hands of the experts.

When is the best time to visit the Galapagos?

Generally speaking, the Galapagos Islands are a year round destination. At the end of this document you will find further details about monthly weather patterns and wildlife viewing opportunities.

What are the boat options?

We have handpicked our favourite Galapagos boats that range in size, price and style to give you a little help of what is available. Please do get in touch for further first hand advice and ideas.

Are there different Galapagos sailing routes?

Each boat has a pre authorised route that has been designed in partnership with the Galapagos Tourism board. Each itinerary has been designed to comprehensively showcase the highlights of different parts of the Galapagos Islands. If there is a particular species you would like to see, or an island that you would like to visit then please let us know and we can suggest the best route and boat that suites your interests. If your interests are to see the Galapagos generally then all of the boats we work with have fantastic and exciting itineraries.



The Boats of the Galapagos

MV Origin

- ✓ One naturalist guide to every ten passengers is the best ratio of all the boats in the Galapagos
- ✓ Alcoholic drinks are included in the price
- ✓ Bottom glass panga boat and stand up paddle boards excursions are available



The 20-passenger Mega Yacht is our favourite luxury boutique cruising option. The food on board is delicious and probably the best food we have tried out of the many boats we have sailed on; they have an open bar policy so you don't have to keep paying for drinks, the sundeck and Jacuzzi are fantastic relaxing and viewing areas and most importantly, having two guides to every 10 passengers creates a more intimate trip.

There are ten deluxe modern designed and very comfortable staterooms with large windows for ocean views that give a feeling like you are at a luxury hotel, not on a Galapagos expedition.

One of the more expensive options in the Galapagos, but for a first class overall experience then the MV Origin is a proven fantastic option that past clients have loved.

PRICE: \$7850 per person in double/twin cabin for 7 night/8 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Integrity

- ✓ Classic feel with state of the art stabilisers and anti-vibration technology
- ✓ Hot tub on upper deck
- ✓ Family run boat with a casual and friendly ambience



Integrity is boat with capacity for 16 discerning guests in nine beautiful cabins. It caters to those who appreciate the finer things in life combined with high quality guiding, professional camaraderie and attention to detail. Fitted with state of the art stabilisers and anti-vibration technology makes this one of the quietest and smoothest cruising boats.

The owner of this boat, Rolf Sievers, runs his first class luxury boat as a love affair. Rolf and his family have a fantastic reputation for sustainability, excellent cruises and running a professional company with a strong reputation.

PRICE: \$7,200 person in a double/twin cabin for a 7 night/8 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.

Seaman Journey

- ✓ Kayak excursions available
- ✓ Spacious catamaran that has undergone a large modernisation
- ✓ Large sundeck with shaded and sunny area



Seaman Journey is a comfortable catamaran with a blue, white and varnished wood interior design. The owner is big into his food, especially organic food, and the menu on the boat is more adventurous than many other boats that cruise the archipelago. The catamaran was refurbished and modernised in 2015 to a high standard that gives it a young feel.

The comfortable cabins are airy and with medium sized windows. For a comfortable space to rest your head at night then these are more than adequate.

COST: \$5929 in standard Ocean View Cabin or \$7379 per person in Upper Deck Suite pp: (per person for 8 day/7 night cruise)

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Alya

- ✓ Modern, luxurious and minimalistic catamaran
- ✓ Eight out of nine cabins have private balconies
- ✓ Hot tub on large sun deck



This spacious and elegant catamaran is a wonderful option for those that are looking to cruise the Galapagos on a super stylish catamaran run by a leading Galapagos cruise company. The communal areas are spacious and well-designed to a very high standard and the upper deck comes complete with a large Jacuzzi and comfortable loungers.

There are 9 very comfortable and spacious en-suite cabins, 8 of which have private balconies. The décor is wooden floors, dark wood furniture and turquoise upholstery touches and they all have air conditioning, and en suite bathrooms and large windows.

A super smooth and comfortable catamaran with a modern feel. The service is fantastic, the food is high quality and this boat is often private chartered to exclusive families.

PRICE: \$2,945 person in a double/twin cabin for a 3 night/4 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Ocean Spray

- ✓ Modern catamaran with great service
- ✓ All cabins have private balconies
- ✓ Professionally run by a luxurious company



The Ocean Spray is a high quality purpose-built Galapagos luxury expedition boat that accommodates 16 guests, is 34m long and is one of the fastest of the smaller boats, ensuring that minimal time is spent sailing. This high-quality and spacious catamaran has a unique selling point that each room has a private balcony.

There is ample space to relax and enjoy the social areas, which include a large sundeck and a small bar, an indoor library and an indoor and outdoor eating area where they fire up the barbeque. Cabins have white and blue colour scheme.

PRICE: \$6,550 person in a double/twin cabin for a 7 night/8 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Beluga

- ✓ An economical and smaller boat run by a family company
- ✓ 8 day and 5 day cruises available
- ✓ Blue and white coloured interior



The Beluga is a 16 person yacht with decent cabins, a super friendly crew, a comfortable sundeck and a classic varnished wood interior. There are eight cabins, all decked with white walls, minimal art work and decent sized bathrooms with hot and cold water showers. The price point is very competitive.

The Beluga is a good quality boat with a genuine and friendly crew. This boat is a super option for those looking to discover the Galapagos Islands in comfortable boat without all the thrills as some of the more luxurious options.

PRICE: \$2,450 person in a double/twin cabin for a 3 night/4 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Coral I & II

- ✓ Jacuzzi on sun deck
- ✓ Variety of cruise lengths and itineraries available at competitive price
- ✓ Interconnecting cabins available



These boats are two very competitively priced good quality boats that offer a variety of cruise lengths to work around your travel window. Both boats (Coral I & II) cruise together and offer the same itinerary. The style of both boats is dark varnished wood and comfortable, yet simple cabins.

The slight downside is that you do not know what boat you will be on until close to the departure as they consider passenger ages, interests and a few other things to put people with similar interests and ages on the same boat to create better ambience.

PRICE: \$1,950 person in a double/twin cabin for a 3 night/4 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



MV Eric

- ✓ Stand up paddle boards available
- ✓ Run by a well-established company with a sustainable philosophy
- ✓ A good quality boat with a competitive price for what it offers



This good quality medium level boat has a classic Galapagos style to it with polished wood interiors and lots of brass. The boat is owned and run by the same company that runs the best Galapagos boat so the staff are very well trained and attention to detail is important for them.

There are ten cabins with outside facing cabins with a window or porthole view. All rooms vary in price according to the deck you are on. Please speak to us about the options.

A fantastic boat run by a super company. During the school holidays they also have special Children's departures with multi-generational activities and excursions. Speak to us about the dates for the family friendly departures.

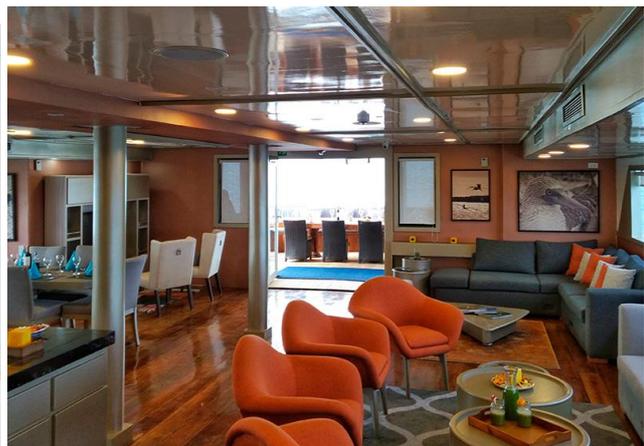
PRICE: (per person for 8 day/7 night cruise)

Iguana Deck	\$ 4700
Booby Deck	\$ 5100
Dolphin Deck	\$ 5600

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.

Sea Star Journey

- ✓ Two Jacuzzis and lots of comfy sun loungers
- ✓ Small spa and modern design throughout
- ✓ Five to 15 day itineraries available



A 16 person boat that has the feeling of a good quality 21st Century boutique hotel. This food aboard is a combination of Ecuadorian and Mediterranean influences and is delicious. There are ample spacious areas to relax in, including two Jacuzzis and a sun deck.

The Sea Star Journey is an impressive looking boat that has a friendly and experienced crew.

PRICE: \$4,890 person in a double/twin cabin for a 5 night/ 6 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Natural Paradise

- ✓ Upper deck cabins have private balconies
- ✓ Modern interior with an outdoor BBQ
- ✓ Eight, Five and Four day itineraries available



A bulkier and very well British managed yacht with attention to every detail, accommodating 16 guests. The highlight of this comfortable boat is the sun deck that comes complete with a BBQ and Jacuzzi.

The social area has varnished wood, a small bar with a couple of stools, comfortable couches and panoramic windows. The highlight though, is the majestic sundeck; a perfect spot to dine al fresco or to cool down in the Jacuzzi after exploring these fascinating islands.

PRICE: \$2,645 person in a double/twin cabin for a 3 night/4 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.

Evolution

- ✓ Mid-sized boat and very stable in the waters
- ✓ Kid family club
- ✓ 2 guides on each departure



A medium sized boat that has 32 cabins looked after by 18 crew members, two naturalist guides, a concierge team and a doctor. The boat has lots of open outdoor areas to relax in whilst sailing or after an evening meal with a night cap whilst enjoying the stars.

The cabins, of which there are several categories, leave no stone unturned and offer tranquil and spacious places to rest your head after an exciting day exploring the Galapagos.

For a medium sized boat that creates a relative smoother cruise then this is a great option. The owners and team of this boat are highly experienced and enthusiastic about the islands.

PRICE: \$4,760 person in a double/twin cabin for a 7 night/8 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Cormorant

- ✓ Shaded Jacuzzi
- ✓ Modern and neutral interior décor
- ✓ Catamaran



The Cormorant is an elegant, stylish, and very spacious 16-person catamaran that was refurbished to a very high spec in 2017. This luxury boat is part of an exclusive fleet that cruises the Galapagos Islands.

Cormorant is an 8 cabin boat and all the cabins have floor to ceiling windows and private balconies. Their approximate size is 38 sq metres and the upper deck has rooms that are inter connectable should you be travelling as a family. Cabins have a fresh design with minimal artwork, wooden floors, TV's, DVD player and iPod docks.

The super spacious sundeck on the Cormorant has everything you will need from a jacuzzi under a roof to open lounge areas if you want to bask in the Ecuadorian heat whilst enjoying a drink from the bar on deck.

This boat is one of the most luxurious small boat options in the Galapagos. If luxury, attentive service and a high spec boat are what you are looking for then this is worth shortlisting.

PRICE: \$3,245 person in a double/twin cabin for a 3 night/4 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Mary Anne

- ✓ Three masted historical feeling sailing ship
- ✓ Porthole in cabin
- ✓ Traditional sailing experience



A stunning looking sailing ship with 12 cabins and a capacity for a maximum of 16 guests, there are also a few single cabins that make it a super option for single travellers. This spacious ship was built in 1999, although it has a historical feel to it and when the masts are raised the noise creates an aura of nostalgia.

For a sailing experience aboard a spacious and strikingly beautiful ship then this is a fantastic choice like no other.

PRICE: \$1,950 person in a double/twin cabin for a 3 night/4 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.

Tip Top II

- ✓ Large communal areas that span the width of the boat
- ✓ Meals served as buffet
- ✓ Catamaran



Built in 2008 as an addition to a fleet run by a family that fell in love with the Galapagos many generations ago. The same family own and operate this purpose built ship that has capacity for 16 passengers. In 2016 it was completely refurbished and now has a bright new feel to the boat.

The crew have worked on this ship for a long time which is testament to the good treatment they receive from the owners and their daily smiles and service make what could be a good cruise into a great one.

This is a well-run and good priced option for those looking for a good quality, yet not lavish experience.

PRICE: \$4,075 person in a double/twin cabin for a 3 night/ 4 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Petrel

- ✓ Private balconies in all cabins
- ✓ Modern and contemporary interior décor
- ✓ Airy and spacious communal areas



The Petrel catamaran was launched at the end of 2015 and this catamaran is a luxurious and extremely comfortable boat that guarantees first class service on board.

The capacity for the boat is 16 passengers that can enjoy the spacious rooms and the large communal areas-our favourite area is under the shade on the upper deck refreshing in the Jacuzzi after a busy morning discovering the islands.

This luxury boat is one of the top end boats in the Galapagos run by an extremely efficient company that delivers luxurious cruises.

PRICE: \$6,880 person in a double/twin cabin for a 7 night/8 day cruise

Discounts: Please do get in touch to hear about the different offers we may have available.



Galapagos Islands Weather Guide

Galapagos is a year round destination with a sub-tropical dry climate. The Galapagos only receive an average of 10 inches of rain per year and much of this falls on the highlands, where those on the cruises spend little time. The coastal areas throughout the islands are permanently arid and desert like with the occasional drizzle. Most Galapagos animals are non-migratory and can be seen year round and the “best time” to visit all depends on what your priorities are for your Galapagos adventure. If you would like to speak to us for more details about the different seasons please do get in touch and we would be delighted to help.

Mid December to May is known as the warm and wetter Galapagos season. The waters warm as the Central American currents move southwards to the islands. This makes snorkelling warmer and wetsuits are not always required. There are short, yet strong rain showers during these months, mainly in the highlands. Temperatures are warmer and the days have longer clearer periods. The seas are also relatively calm, although most of the modern boats have been designed with top of the range stabilisers which make most sailings very comfortable.

Late June to November are the cooler months with periodic overcast skies as the cold Humboldt current from Antarctica moves north. In the afternoons this can create a light mist and drizzle in the highlands. The coastal locations and your time spent on the boat will be mainly dry. As it is cooler (August is coolest) in the water, plankton flourishes, making the underwater activity exciting and busy. Snorkelling in these months is cooler and you may require a wetsuit. The sea during these months is slightly choppier, but it all relative to what is typically a calm environment. It is the breeding season for lots of birds, marine iguanas, sea lions and fur seals.

Temperatures and monthly highlights below you will find our guide to the temperature, average monthly rainfall, average sea temperature and a guide to the monthly highlights. We have designed it to help you in deciding what month will be best for your trip. For further information please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Month	Temp.	Average sea temp.	Average rainfall	Wildlife highlights
Jan	30° / 22°C	24.5°C	2.5 cm	- Marine iguanas skins are brightest - Green turtles lay their eggs on the beaches - Land birds start nesting
	86° / 72°F	76°F	1.0 in	
Feb	30° / 24°C	25°C	2.5 cm	- Greater flamingos begin nesting (Floreana) - Nazca boobies on Espanola are at the end of their nesting season. - Marine iguanas nest (Santa Cruz)
	86° / 75°F	77°F	1.0 in	
March	31° / 24°C	25°C	5.1 cm	- Marine iguanas nest (Fernandina) - Waved albatross arrive to Espanola - Sea turtles hatch
	86° / 75°F	77°F	2.0 in	
April	31° / 24°C	25°C	3.8 cm	- Waved albatross arrival (Espanola) to begin their courtships. - Green sea turtles' eggs begin to hatch. - Land iguanas hatch (Isabela)
	88° / 75°F	77°F	1.5 in	
May	28° / 22°C	24.5°C	1.9 cm	- Blue-footed boobies begin their courtship (North Seymour) - Sea turtles are still hatching (Gardner Bay & Punta Cormorants). - Albatross on Espanola start laying their eggs
	82° / 72°F	76°F	0.75 in	
June	26° / 21°C	23°C	0.60 cm	- Giant tortoises migrate from the highlands to lowlands - Humpback whales arrival begins - Migrant birds touchdown
	79° / 70°F	73°F	0.25 in	
July	26° / 20°C	22°C	1.3 cm	-Blue-footed boobies active -Flightless cormorants court (Fernandina) -Whales and dolphins are more likely to be observed (Isabela)
	79° / 68°F	72°F	0.50 in	
Aug	26° / 19°C	21.5°C	0.60 cm	- Galapagos hawks court (Espanola and Santiago) - Baby sea lions are born, yet remain on land (July-August), - Giant tortoises return to the highlands.
	79° / 66°F	71°F	0.25 in	
Sept	26° / 19°C	22°C	1.3 cm	-More Hammerhead sharks and humpback whales arrive - Penguins activity at a peak (Bartolome) until December. - Sea lions are very active
	79° / 66°F	72°F	0.50 in	
Oct	26° / 20°C	22.5°C	0.60 cm	- The Galapagos fur seals begin mating - Boobies raise their chicks on Espanola - Lava herons start nesting
	79° / 68°F	73°F	0.25 in	
Nov	26° / 21°C	23°C	1.3 cm	-Sea lion pups are active on the Eastern part of the Archipelago -Band-rumped storm petrels begin their second nesting period - Brown noddies breeding season
	79° / 70°F	73°F	0.50 in	
Dec	27° / 22°C	22.5°C	1.3 cm	-hatching of the giant tortoise's eggs begins and lasts until April. -Green sea turtles display their mating behaviour.
	81°/72°C	73°F	0.5 cm	-First waved albatross fledge